Volume 2 Chapter 8
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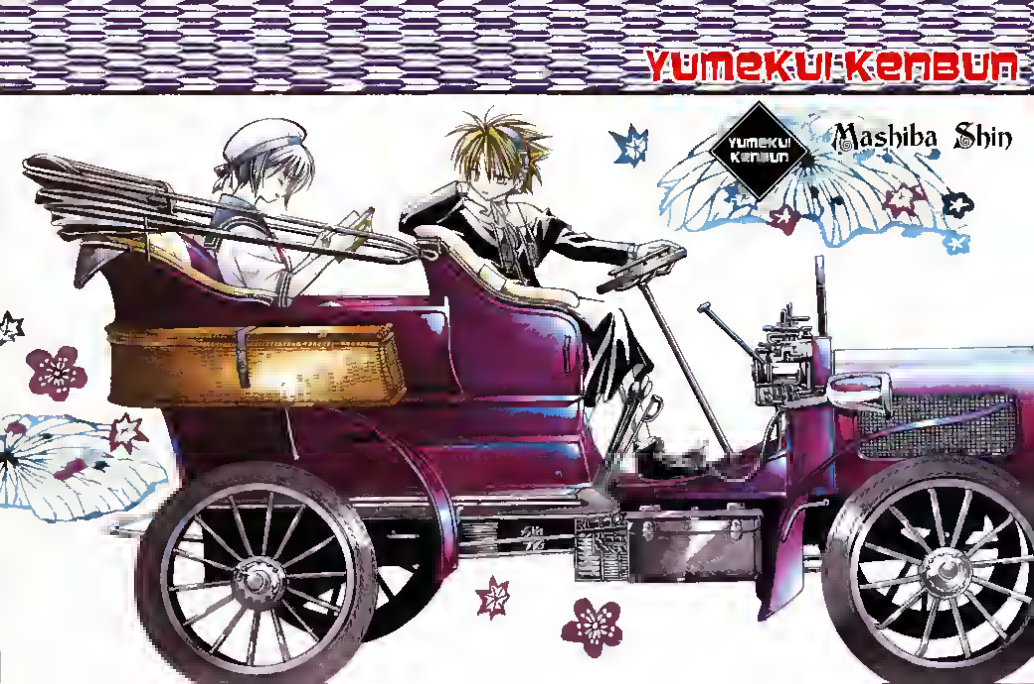
Yumeku Kenbun
Mashiba Shin

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Yumekui Kenbun

The Eighth Night

Opposite Mirrors (part 2)

I'M A TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATOR* ONE DAY I TOOK YOSHINORI'S CALL

*OPERATOR — AT THAT TIME TELEPHONES REQUIRED OPERATORS TO CONNECT TO THE OTHER PARTY

AFTER A WHILE HE STARTED TO PROJECT THE IMAGE OF A GIRL LIKE HIM ONTO ME. SINCE I WAS ON THE PHONE WITH HIM, HE WANTED TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH ME BASED ON HIS IMAGINATION ALONE.
BUT HE DIDN'T SAY WHO HE WANTED TO BE CONNECTED TO AND STARTED TALKING ABOUT HIS BACKGROUND. AFTER THAT HE CONTINUED TO MAKE SEVERAL CALLS LIKE THAT.

THEN HE TOLD ME THAT HE'D AT LEAST LIKE TO SEE ME IN HIS DREAMS AND LAST NIGHT HE SAID THAT HE WOULD GO TO A SHOP CALLED GINSEIKAN AND JUST AFTER TELLING ME THAT HE HUNG UP.
I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT HE MEANT BUT...
BUT TO CONTINUE THAT RELATIONSHIP, I HAD TO DISGUISE MYSELF AND ACT LIKE THE EIKO IN YOSHINORI'S DREAMS, BEAUTIFUL AND REFINED
I COULDN'T REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY.
HIS STATUS AND BACKGROUND WERE VERY DIFFERENT FROM MINE. THE LIFESTYLE OF THE UPPER CLASS IS LIKE ANOTHER WORLD. STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL.
THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS ALONE LET ME HAVE A TASTE OF HIS LIFESTYLE, AND THEY BECAME MY GREATEST DELIGHT.

ANYWAY, I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO SEE HIM IF I CAME HERE

DID YOU ALWAYS HIDE YOURSELF ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PHONE?

HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'S IN LOVE WITH HIMSELF. THE PERSON HE IMAGINED YOU AS IS ACTUALLY HIMSELF.

WHICH IS TO SAY, THE PERSON HE REALLY WANTED TO MEET ISN'T YOU, BUT ANOTHER YOSHINORI.

HE FULFILLED HIS DESIRE IN HIS DREAM LAST NIGHT.

TAKE A LOOK. THAT'S YOSHINORI.

He's asleep already.

SO THIS IS HIM.

NOPE I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANYTHING BESIDES NIGHTMARES
HIRUKO, CAN YOU PLEASE TAKE ME INTO YOSHINORI'S DREAM?
IT WAS THIS BAKU, HIRUKO, WHO LET THE TWO YOSHINORIS MEET
?!
THE PERSON WHO WAS TALKING TO HIM ON THE PHONE WAS ME.
I'M THE REAL EIKO!
PLEASE! I JUST WANT HIM TO SEE ME ONCE!
BUT MY FEELINGS FOR HIM WILL WIN HIM OVER
GIN
I KNOW!
YOUR RIVAL FOR HIM IS YOSHINORI HIMSELF.

PUT YOUR HAND ON HIS SHOULDER.
Sleep now, and leave reality behind

HIRUKO?
WHAT IS IT?
THIS GIRL IS LOOKING FOR YOU

YOSHINORI, WHO IS SHE?
DON'T KNOW. HEY, WHO ARE YOU?

I—I'M HOUJOU EIKO!
THE REAL EIKO!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
EIKO IS THIS BEAUTIFUL LADY RIGHT HERE

NO! SHE'S THE PRODUCT OF YOUR NARCISSISM!
SHE DOESN'T REALLY EXIST!
YOSHINORI LIKES ME SO I'M THE REAL EIKO...

NO! I'M THE REAL ONE!
QUIT IT AL-READY! JUST HURRY UP AND LEAVE!
WHAT A RUDE GIRL!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD LEAVE!
tap tap
CRUNCH

waah!
CLATTER
SHATTER
CLATTER
YOSHINORI!

...
*USTLE
ugh
Y... YOU ...
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY
!
TINK

I GET IT NOW YOU'RE REALLY MY CLONE
YES... I'M SURE I'M LIKE THAT TOO...
YOU'RE... REALLY UGLY
I WAS CAUGHT UP IN MY OWN WORLD, AND I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THAT SUCH A KIND AND GENTLE GIRL EXISTED
YES... I'VE MADE A GRAVE MISTAKE...
EIKO, YOU'RE THE WOMAN I'VE ALWAYS WANTED
YOSHI-NORI
HUSTLE

Time to wake up
LOOK, THE MIRROR THAT REFLECTS MY NARCISSISM IS GONE.
HERE
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE THE ONE I'LL LOVE WITH ALL MY HEART.

A few weeks later
EIKO WROTE US A LETTER.
THE TWO OF THEM ARE GETTING ALONG RIGHT?
SINCE YOSHINORI REALIZED HIS OWN NARCISSISM IN THAT DREAM, HE'S REJECTED THAT PART OF HIMSELF
WHICH IS TO SAY HE FOUND OUT HIS WEAKNESS BECAUSE OF HIS CLONE
WHAT DID SHE WRITE?
TH...NK YOU FOR YOUR HELP BACK THEN.
YOSHINORI ND I- RE...LLY GOT ...LONG WELL WE GOT MAR- RIED SHORTLY AFTER
HE LOVES ME VERY MUCH, ND TRULY APPRECIATES ME
"SOME THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, BUT I'M WORK- ING HARD TO PERSEVERE."
BEING THRUST INTO UPPER-CLASS SOCIETY, OF COURSE THERE'LL BE HARD PARTS
YES, WELCOME
CLICK

I'M YOSHINORI NANJOU.
CAN YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
HEHE. I DECIDED I'D LOVE EIKO AND EIKO ALONE
YOUR FACE...?
W— WHO ARE YOU?!
YES, THAT PERSON WAS ME.
AND THERE WAS SOMEONE DEEP INSIDE
THE MIRROR KEPT REPEATING THE IMAGE,
AFTER THAT I DIDN'T EXPECT ANOTHER NIGHTMARE TO START

I AM THE ONE LURKING THE DEEP RECESSES OF YOUR HEART...
THE ONE WHO HATES YOU. DESPISES YOU.
ALTHOUGH THE MIRROR THAT CONTAINED THE IMAGE OF YOUR NARCISSISM HAS ALREADY SHATTERED. DREAMS AND REALITY ARE NOT THE SAME
IF YOU REALLY LOVE EIKO, THEN SHOULDN'T THE REAL YOU BE SHATTERED...
JUST LIKE THE SHATTERED MIRROR IN YOUR DREAM?
YOUR PERSONALITY
YOUR STATUS AND BODY
HERE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU!

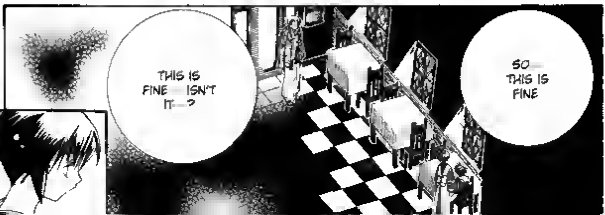
HAVEN'T YOU DECIDED TO LOVE EIKO WITH ALL YOUR HEART?
IT WAS THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SELF-HATRED INSIDE OF ME
WHEN I REJECTED HER, REJECTED MY NARCISSISM, I AWAKENED IT
EIKO...
YES, I LOVE EIKO...!
IN THAT CASE, I'LL HELP DESTROY YOU!
AND FIRST I'LL DESTROY THE FACE YOU LOVE SO MUCH!
AH!
AH...!

AAH...

THE NIGHTMARE BRAINWASHED ME AND I REALLY DID IT...
AND SO I BECAME JUST LIKE IT, ALL TORN UP...

SINCE I CAN LOVE EIKO FULLY NOW...
BUT I DON'T REGRET IT AT ALL.

AND I ALSO LOST MY SOCIAL STATUS
THEY THOUGHT I WAS MENTALLY UNSOUND AND KICKED ME OUT OF THE FAMILY


THIS IS FINE... ISN'T IT...?
SO... THIS IS FINE

DON'T WORRY WHEN YOU GO HOME
THERE WILL BE A GENTLE GIRL WAITING FOR YOU, A GIRL WHO SUPPORTS YOU AND WILL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE

THANK YOU
THAT'S WHAT I HOPED TO HEAR
CLICK

HUH? YES.
DID I SAY SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE?
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?
NO...
DO YOU WANT ME TO FINISH READING THE LETTER?
STARE
BUT SINCE BIKO'S THERE FOR HIM...
THIS MUST HAVE BEEN WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT, WHEN BIKO SAID SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED
AND THEN THAT DEVELOPED INTO LOVE. THAT'S WHY WHEN YOSHINORI LOST HIS STATUS...
BUT FROM THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS, I'D ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED AN INTEREST IN YOSHINORI BECAUSE OF HIS SOCIAL STATUS...
I'M WORKING HARD TO PERSEVERE.
I DON'T
ANY FEELINGS
TOWARDS HIM WHATSOEVER..."

作/者/コ/メ/ン/ト

真柴真
Shin Mashiba

貘さんはどんな悪夢を見ますか？
私は昔、ナメクジを50匹ほどおどり喰いするという印象的な夢を見ました。
何故か懐かしい味がしました。

夢喰見聞 弐

真柴真

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SQUARE ENIX

平部の 狗と名乗る 男が 野原面
其処には悪夢を食う「貘」の姿があった
悪夢に魅入られた人々を救済する事
好奇の視線の先に潜む闇の存在
男は最早後戻り出来ぬ事を悟るが

悪夢を糧とし、人間の負の感情をほうばる「貘」
何処からともなく現れ、人々の悪夢を食い荒らす貘は、いったい
何処から来て、何処へ向かうのか
「貘」の秘密に迫る、真柴ワールド

夢喰見聞 弐
真柴真

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The Ninth Night

The Sound

ARE YOU HIRUKO THE BAKU?
Where did she come from?
YES, WHO ARE YOU?
I'M SHIZUKA
UM, I'VE COME HERE TO INVITE YOU TO SEE MY NIGHT-MARE
YOU WANT TO INVITE ME TO SEE IT?
YOUR..
YOUR EYES. ARE YOU ...?
I SEE
!!
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEEL SORRY FOR ME
MY EYES MAY HAVE LOST THEIR LIGHT. BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SUFFERING
BECAUSE

I have hope for the things I'm unable to see.
LET'S GO INSIDE TO TALK.
Click
THIS GIRL...
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING
OH, MIZUKI IS SLEEPING, SO I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SERVE YOU, BUT...
WELL, YOU WOULDN'T DRINK COFFEE, WOULD YOU?
?
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME BECAUSE I'M A KID!
Hahal I can't drink it either
ZZZZ

SO YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU FIND IT IN YOUR DREAM... IS THAT RIGHT?
YOU CAN'T FIND THE SOURCE OF THAT SOUND IN REALITY

SHIZUKA, WHAT KIND OF NIGHT-MARE DID YOU HAVE?
WELL...

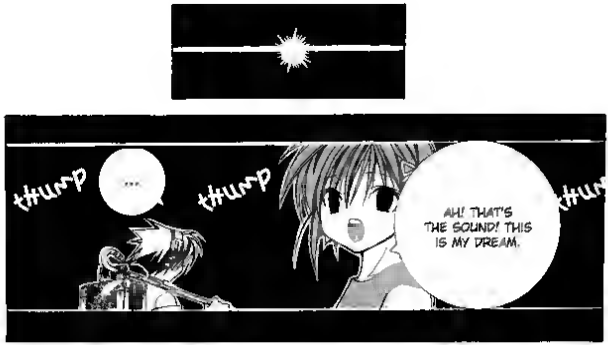
A DREAM ABOUT 'SOUND'

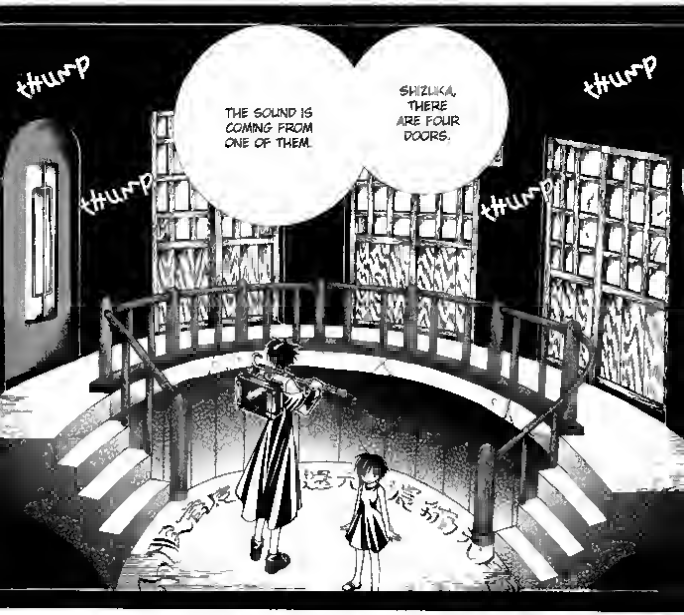
thump
IN REALITY THERE'S ALWAYS THIS SOUND I CAN HEAR NOW THAT SOUND IS ALWAYS IN MY DREAMS, TOO
thump
THAT SOUND SEEMS LIKE IT'S LONELY AND SAD COMPELLING ME TO NOTICE IT.
thump

YEAH I THOUGHT THAT, AFTER KNOWING THE TRUTH, I WON'T FEEL FRUSTRATED ABOUT THAT SOUND, WHETHER IT'S IN REALITY OR MY DREAMS

CLICK

THEN LET ME BE YOUR EYES
Sleep now and leave reality behind for a while


thump
...
thump
AH! THAT'S THE SOUND! THIS IS MY DREAM.


thump
THE SOUND IS COMING FROM ONE OF THEM.
SHIZUKA, THERE ARE FOUR DOORS.
thump
thump
thump

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

thump
thump
thump

creak
LET'S OPEN THE DOORS ONE BY ONE, STARTING FROM THE DOOR ON THE EDGE...

IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
BY THE RIVER THERE'S A TOMBSTONE BEING POUNDED ON BY THE RAIN.
NEXT TO IT ...

THAT VOICE IS...

OH NO ARE YOU BLIND?

A KITTEN ?

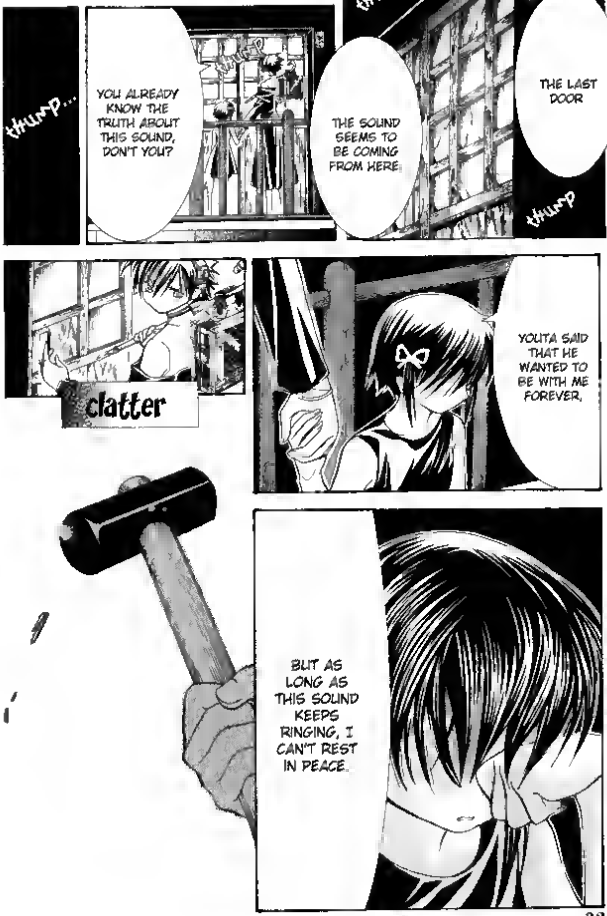
IS A KITTEN

SHIZUKA...
IT'S THE SAME AS MY NAME...
AND THAT VOICE SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
YOU'LL BE CALLED...
SHIZUKA.
THERE'S A YOUNG BOY WALKING OVER THERE
WANT TO GO TO MY HOUSE?
I'LL PICK A NAME FOR YOU
I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT RAINY DAY...
I'M YOUTA, PLEASED TO MEET YOU
'THAT YOU HAD HOPE', DIDN'T YOU?
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I'M...
YOU ONCE SAID...
OH, YOU'RE THAT 'CAT'.

HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHY I NAMED YOU 'SHIZUKA'?
slide
THIS IS THE INSIDE OF YOUTA'S HOUSE
thump
I'M GOING TO OPEN THE SECOND DOOR.
thump
YOU APPEARED NEXT TO THAT TOMBSTONE NOT LONG AFTER SHE DIED,
SO...
IT'S MY MOTHER'S NAME... SHE SLEEPS ETERNALLY UNDER THE TOMBSTONE WHERE I PICKED YOU UP.
YOUTA REALLY DOTED ON SHIZUKA.
MOTHER
I CAN TREAT YOU AS MY MOTHER'S REINCARNATION, RIGHT?

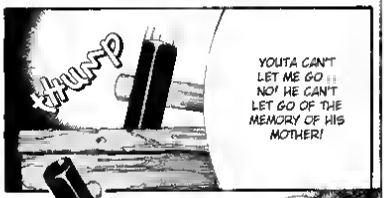
SOMETHING WARM FELL ON SHIZUKA'S COLD BODY.
SHIZUKA...
DIED...
clatter
thump
I'M GOING TO OPEN THE THIRD DOOR
thump
thump
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU...
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER...
AH,
I REMEMBER THIS TOO

SO THE REASON WHY YOU TOOK THE FORM OF A GIRL IS BECAUSE YOU'RE A DISEMBODIED SOUL.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU CHANGED YOUR HOPE INTO REALITY.
HOPE.
THAT IS, YOU BECAME LIKE THE YOUTA YOU SO ADMIRED, LIKE A HUMAN
THE TRUTH IS THAT YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT YOU WERE A CAT AND HAD ALREADY DIED, DIDN'T YOU?
IT'S YOUR STRONG FEELINGS FOR HIM THAT MADE YOU STAY BEHIND LIKE THIS
I'M SO LONELY
MOTHER

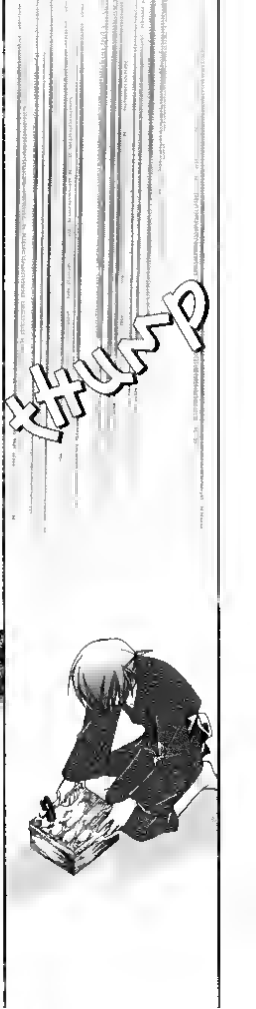

thump...
YOU ALREADY KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS SOUND, DON'T YOU?
THE SOUND SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM HERE.
thump
THE LAST DOOR
thump
clatter
YOUTA SAID THAT HE WANTED TO BE WITH ME FOREVER.
BUT AS LONG AS THIS SOUND KEEPS RINGING, I CAN'T REST IN PEACE.

THAT BOX IS ALREADY IN PIECES
YOUTA IS HAMMERING A NAIL

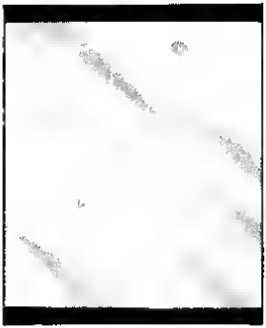
BUT THE SOUND IS ALWAYS THERE BECAUSE YOUTA KEEPS HAMMERING THE BOX
I'VE ALREADY BEEN DEAD FOR A FEW YEARS!


thump
YOUTA CAN'T LET ME GO... NO! HE CAN'T LET GO OF THE MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER!

THAT'S WHY SINCE BACK THEN, HE'S BEEN HAMMERING THE BOX NON-STOP!


thump

SIGH
AND ALSO
THANK HIM FOR ALL HE HAS DONE FOR ME
PLEASE! HIRUKO! VISIT YOUTA IN THE REAL WORLD,
AND TELL HIM THAT 'SHIZUKA' IS ALREADY RESTING IN PEACE! TELL HIM TO STOP DOING THAT!
IF I DO THAT, WILL YOU BE ABLE TO REST IN PEACE?
ACTUALLY, I REALLY WANT TO KEEP LISTENING TO THE SOUND AND KNOW YOUTA'S FEELINGS...
BUT



GOODBYE.

It's time
to bid him
farewell...

wobble
★Ginseikan
wobble
I didn't think that something like that would happen while I was asleep.
THAT'S RIGHT, GHOSTS CAN'T DRINK COFFEE
BUT HOW COULD YOU TELL THAT SHE WAS A GHOST?
SHE FELT DIFFERENT WHEN I PICKED HER UP
BUT DO GHOSTS HAVE NIGHT-MARES?
pink
I KNEW IT
empty.
ALL YOU DID WAS GO ALONG WITH THE MEMORY OF SHIZUKA, WHO WAS CONVINCED SHE WAS STILL ALIVE AND HAVING NIGHTMARES.
HIRUKO?

!!
BUT DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE LIVES?

CHIRP
CHIRP
YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING TO STOP YOUTA, ARE YOU?
CLICK

hup

WELL, DOESN'T MATTER I CAN FOLLOW THE TRACE SHIZUKA BEHIND WHEN SHE WAS COMING HERE

YOU ARE...
AND ON AN EMPTY STOMACH, TOO. HOW NOBLE

HOW HOW FAR... IS IT?
The sun is so hot
steam
shine
A TOMB-STONE BY THE RIVER.
THIS IS THE PLACE
NOT A SOUND
NOBODY LIVES THERE ANYMORE
SILENCE...
KNOCK
KNOCK

OH, YOUTA HAS LEFT WITH HIS FATHER
HUH?
IT'S BEEN VACANT FOR A WHILE NOW
SLIDE
BUT THAT BOY, YOUTA..!
YOUTA?
THAT WAS A FEW YEARS AGO.
A FEW YEARS AGO...?

WHAT'S GOING ON?
clack clack
THAT'S THE SOUND!
shuffle
thump
thump
IF HE'S NOT AROUND TO MAKE IT, WHY'S THE SOUND STILL HERE?
thump
thump
thump

!!!
thump
thump
thump
thump
thump
thump
thump
THIS IS...
SHIZUKA'S GRAVE
SOMETHING'S CARVED ON IT.
WHY IS THE SOUND COMING FROM THE PLACE WHERE HER COFFIN RESTS?
IT'S COMING FROM HERE

静寂
EVEN IF WE'RE APART, PLEASE THINK OF THIS SOUND AS ME SIGNED, YOUTA
MY MEMORY WILL ALWAYS ACCOMPANY YOU, NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE
THUMP
SLIDE
THUMP
Shuffle
Hold eternal hope for the things you cannot see.
You really do...
SHIZUKA

thump
thump

thump
thump...
thump...
thump...

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Chapter 10
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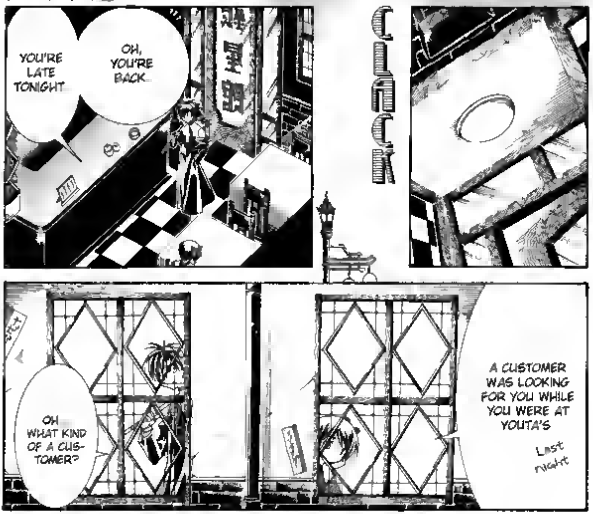
Tenth Night
The Drawing
(part one)

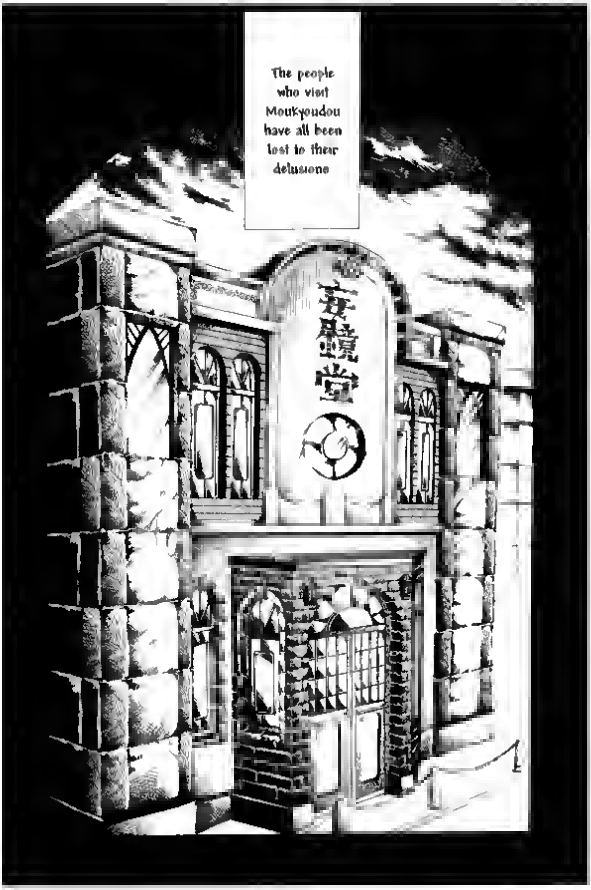

YOU'RE LATE TONIGHT.
OH, YOU'RE BACK.
CLICK
OH WHAT KIND OF A CUSTOMER?
A CUSTOMER WAS LOOKING FOR YOU WHILE YOU WERE AT YOUTA'S Last night
She said she's been having a nightmare about this oil painting that she brought with her
It was a girl by the name of Hakariya Rumi

He was conscripted for the war several years ago but he never returned
There was a man in the painting. He's the painter, and he's also Fumi's beloved, Nihmi Akuo.
It was that passion that attracted her to him.
According to Fumi, Akuo was an aspiring painter. Even so, his passion for art far exceeded that of the average person...
She never heard from him again, and thinks that he's passed away. She fell into a depression...
That painting was one he did before he was conscripted. But it was incomplete; he said he wanted to add Fumi to the picture after he returned, as a token of their betrothal. However...

It's not clear when it began ...
But she gradually began having nightmares of Akuo calling her from within the painting
——As she told me her story, Kumi started to act more and more strangely...
IF HE'S ALREADY DEAD....
CLICK
I'M SURE HIS SPIRIT WOULD REMAIN IN THIS PAINTING SINCE HE PUT SO MUCH LOVE AND PASSION INTO IT...
THAT'S RIGHT... HE'S JUST LIKE THE ONE IN THIS PAINTING!

OH, HOW I LONG TO ENTER THE ART!
I WISH I COULD HAVE MY SPIRIT LIVE ON BY AKIO'S SIDE!
TO LIVE ON...
Eyes... Seemed utterly blank.
And consumed by her desire...
I'M... HO HO
GOING TO MOUKYOUDOU.

SO SHE WENT THERE, DID SHE?
JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS MOUKYOUDOU?
HOW COULD HIS SPIRIT POSSIBLY RESIDE IN A PAINTING...?
BY THE WAY...
I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE FOR A WHILE, SO I GUESS IT'S TIME TO STOP BY
HEHE... THIS IS INTERESTING...
YES. JUST AS PEOPLE FREQUENT GINSEIKAN BECAUSE OF NIGHTMARES...
STRANGE...?
IS A STRANGE PLACE IN THIS CITY
YEAH, MOUKYOUDOU...
EH? HIRUKO YOU KNOW THAT PLACE?


The people who visit Moukyoudou have all been lost to their delusions
妄驚堂

The owner of the place is Kain
HELLO
EXCUSE ME...
Of course the people who visit there don't actually realize that
Just like Rumi
EXCUSE ME
CLICK
hee
I'M HAKARIYA RUMI...
hee
Moukyoudou is where a person's fantasy may be granted but whether that's a blessing or tragedy depends on each individual
A CUSTOMER?
hee
He's an oddball who's in love with fantasies
Hmm
But I don't mind him

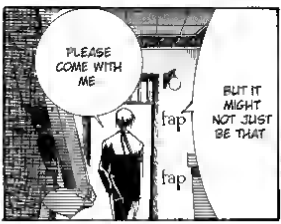
Welcome!
HEY, KAIRI, HURRY UP AND RETURN TO REALITY!
Heehee... The sky is all black and white...
Sorry!
THIS GUY IS OBSESSED WITH HIS FANTASIES, SO HE'S LIKE THIS A LOT...
SHAKE
SHAKE
...AND YOU ARE?
I'M SHIMA, AND I'M IN CHARGE OF LOOKING AFTER KAIRI!
I HEARD THAT YOU CAN COME HERE TO HAVE YOUR WISHES FULFILLED, SHIMA
WISHES?
YES, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD
A WISH IN THE FORM OF A FANTASY... HMM.
I'D LIKE TO LIVE WITH AKUO'S SPIRIT IN THIS PAINTING...
I...
EH?
ENTERING THAT PAINTING WOULD BE THE SAME AS STOPPING TIME

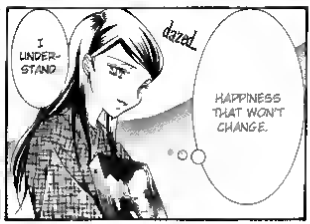
smile

KIRI
....
STOPPING TIME...?

Woah!
When did you come in?

IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU ENTERED THE PAINTING TO LIVE WITH AKIO THEN THE HAPPINESS THAT YOU'LL FEEL FROM IT WILL ALSO NEVER CHANGE
PAINTINGS HALT TIME, CAPTURING THAT INSTANT UNCHANGING FOR ALL ETERNITY
FOR INSTANCE, EVEN AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS THAT TREE WON'T WITHER. IT'S BECAUSE IT'S IN A PAINTING

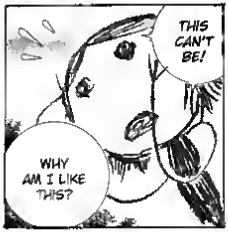

PLEASE COME WITH ME
BUT IT MIGHT NOT JUST BE THAT
fap
fap


dazed...
I UNDER-STAND
HAPPINESS THAT WON'T CHANGE.

THERE ARE MANY SPECIAL ROOMS IN MOUKYOU-DOU
SOME OF THEM CAN GIVE FORM TO THE DESIRES OF VISITORS
THE ROOMS WILL FAITH-FULLY CARRY OUT YOUR WISHES
OH... IT'S LOCKED
I'LL OPEN IT FOR YOU
WSH
After all, I am the "key"

THERE'S NO TURNING BACK ONCE YOU DO THIS
I'LL GIVE YOU ONE LAST WARNING
CLANK
creak
I NO LONGER CARE
I CAN'T WAIT ANYMORE AND HAVE NOTHING TO GO BACK FOR, SO
creak
I WANT TO PUT MY SOUL IN THE PAINTING.

I'VE.. I'VE ENTERED THE PAINTING!
THE SCENERY IS JUST LIKE THE PAINT-ING
OH... AKUO!
!!
A HAND?
EH? WHAT IS THIS?
MY RIGHT HAND!?

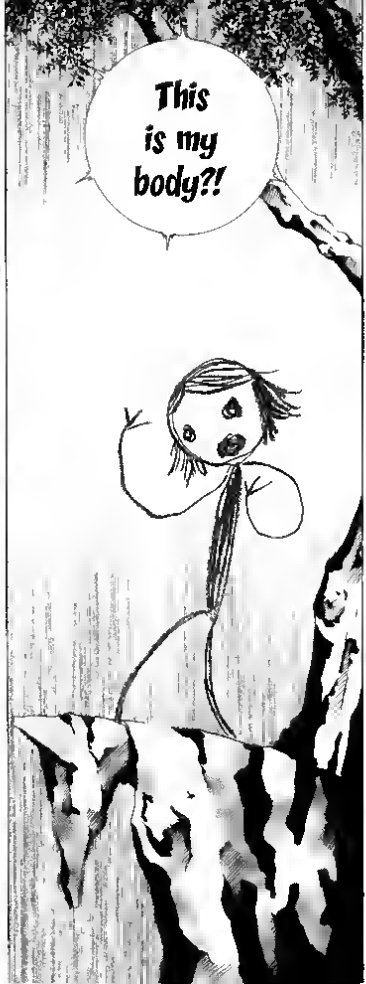

THIS CAN'T BE!
WHY AM I LIKE THIS?

WHY ...?

THIS FEELING
IS LIKE CHARCOAL

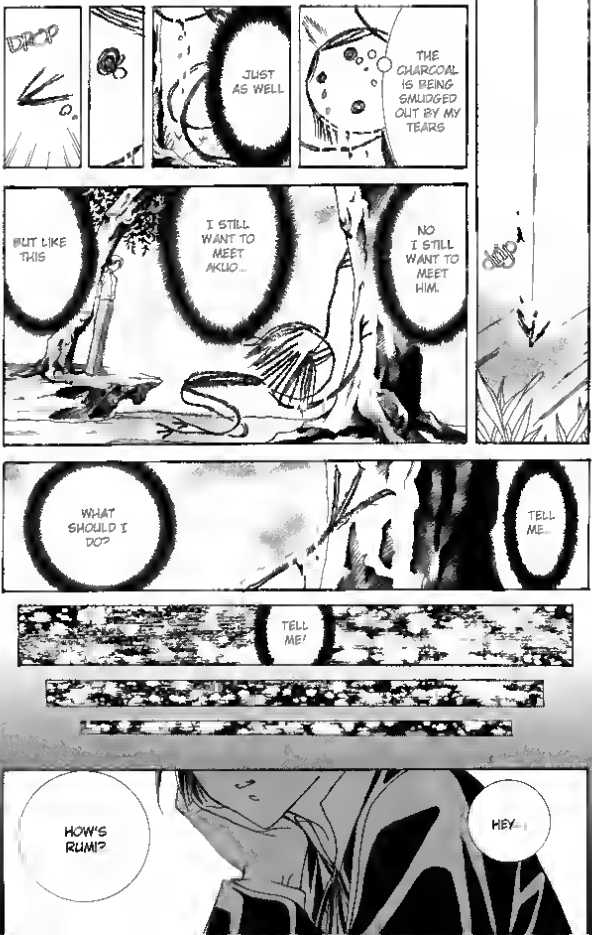
I'VE SEEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS SOMEWHERE...

ARE YOU STILL SKETCHING?!


This is my body?!

HEHE... THIS PAINTING WILL HAVE TO WAIT TILL I RETURN FROM THE WAR. THEN I'LL DRAW YOU IN, AND IT'LL BE DONE.
WILL THAT PAINTING BE COMPLETED, AKIJO?
I HOPE THAT WE'LL BE JUST LIKE THIS PAINTING... TOGETHER FOR-EVER...
I couldn't stand it...
click
BUT I...
WE'LL BE APART FOR A WHILE, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO HANG IN THERE, RUMI.
AKIJO...
I, who'd never even held a drawing pencil...
So I put my wish in the paint-ing.
And I wanted to stay with him forever in the pic-ture.
Each second felt far too long...

THIS CHARCOAL DRAWING IS THE IMAGE THAT I DREW OF MYSELF
Drew in a stick figure that didn't even look like me
ENTERING THAT PAINTING WOULD BE THE SAME AS STOPPING TIME...
!
NO...
AM I GOING TO STAY A SKETCH FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?
I'LL REMAIN IN THIS PAINTING EXACTLY AS I AM NOW...
I DON'T HAVE A LIFETIME IN HERE
IF YOU WERE TO REJECT ME NOW WHAT WOULD I DO...?
AKUO I CAN'T POSSIBLY FACE YOU IN THIS STATE


DROP
JUST AS WELL
THE CHARCOAL IS BEING SMUDGED OUT BY MY TEARS
BUT LIKE THIS
I STILL WANT TO MEET AKUO...
NO I STILL WANT TO MEET HIM.
digo
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
TELL ME...
TELL ME!
HOW'S RUMI?
HEY...

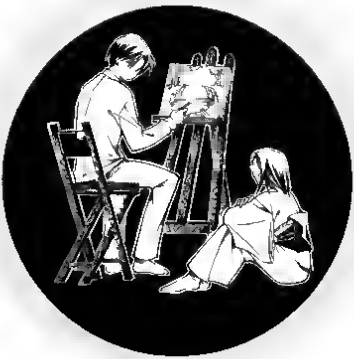
YEAH...
HEY?
KAIRI, ARE THE IMAGES FROM THE ROOM ENTERING YOUR MIND?
creak
Welcome!
OH, A CUSTOMER!
OH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HIRUKO.
eh?

HAS A GIRL BY THE NAME OF RUMI COME HERE?
YES. HAS SHE ALSO BEEN BY YOUR PLACE?
YUP
YOU KNOW THIS GUY?
YEAH
I GUESS THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME MEETING HIM SHIMA, SINCE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WORKING HERE LONG
SO HOW DO YOU KNOW HIM?
The day you entered that room ...
EACH TIME I SEE YOUR FACE, HIRUKO, I CAN'T HELP BUT REMEMBER

THAT GOES FOR YOU!
HEHE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES
OUR ROOMS?
SO SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM BEFORE...?
bring
SO HIRUKO
Ah, he's back again.
That wasn't much, don't tell me...
He's not remembering, he's having a fantasy!
hee
hee
slide

Has "Haruko" been well?
WHO KNOWS
SHIMA, PLEASE BRING HIM TO RUMI'S ROOM.
OH... OKAY!
OH, BY THE WAY ...
YOU CAN KEEP WHAT'S IN THE ROOM.

...
I BET RUMI'S VERY HAPPY IN THE PAINTING, RIGHT?
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?



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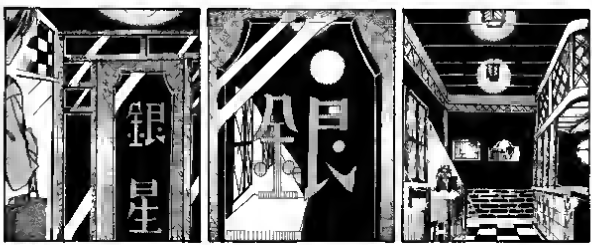
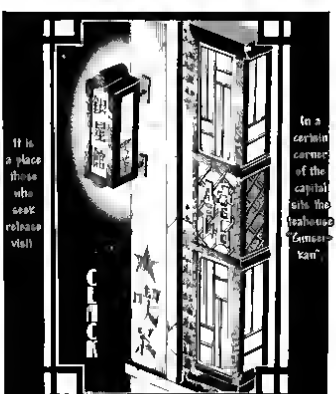


Eleventh Night The Drawing (part two)



IS THIS WHERE THE BAKU HIRUKO STAYS?
OH! THAT'S ...!
WHAT'S MY PAINTING DOING HERE!?
ARE YOU
NIIM! AKUO?
HMM. SO YOU'RE STILL ALIVE

RIGHT NOW SHE'S IN THE PAINTING.
?
RUMI!?
WHAT?
THEN... WHERE IS SHE...?
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
YOUR GIRLFRIEND HAKARIYA RUMI CAME HERE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

So she went to MouKyoudou
Since you were conscripted several years ago, she thought that you were dead
It was there that she fulfilled
since you loved the painting so much, your spirit would be in it. So she sent her own spirit into the painting...

SO YOU'RE SAYING... THAT THE STRANGE CREATURE IN MY DREAMS IS RUMI?!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

I returned after the war...

LET ME START FROM THE BEGINNING

click

WHAT DREAM HAVE YOU BEEN HAVING?

...

A...

PUMP

But that's when the dreams started coming.

So I started to pick up the brush again and tried to pull myself together

"I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEE RUMI LIKE THIS!"

But it had robbed me of my sanity and my strength...

Even if it is just a dream, I can't tolerate it!

Something like that being in the most important painting of my life really irritates me!

A strange unidentifiable creature invaded the world of my painting

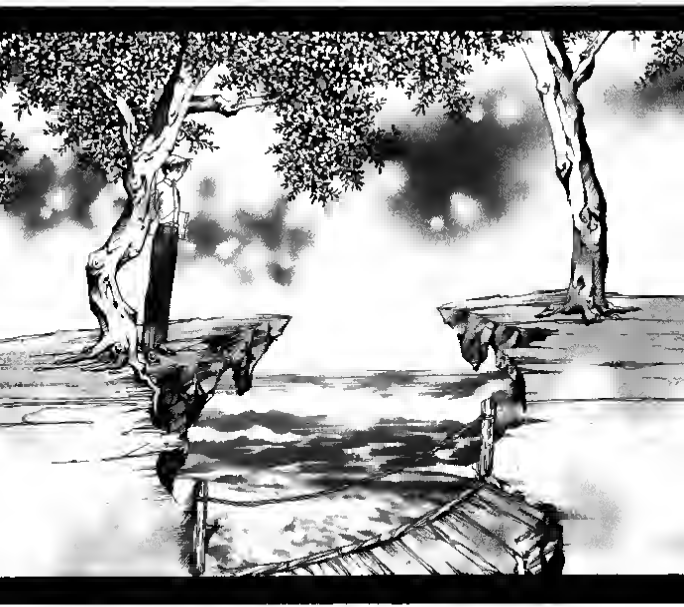
LIKE THIS, EVEN IF I SEE HER AGAIN, THE PAINTING CAN NEVER BE PERFECT!
ALL I NEED TO DO IS TO ADD RUMI TO THE PAINTING AND WE CAN START EVERYTHING ALL OVER!
OUT OF ALL MY WORKS, I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT THIS PAINTING IS THE ONLY ONE THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO PERFECT!
SLAM
PERFECTION PERFECTION GEEZ.
SO YOU'D BE ABLE TO COMPLETE YOUR PAINTING IF YOU GOT RID OF THAT WEIRD CREATURE PLAGUING IT?
NOD
T... THAT'S IT!
THAT THING'S THE MONSTER!!
FINDS

I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO GO NEAR SOMETHING THAT STRANGE, BUT...
THIS JUST LOOKS LIKE A CHARCOAL SKETCH.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT... I DID NOTICE IT WHILE I WAS SKETCHING. BUT I DIDN'T THINK MUCH ABOUT IT AS I FAINTED OVER IT.
WHO'D HAVE GUESSED I'D BE SO DISTURBED BY IT NOW?
IT PROBABLY JUST STUCK IN YOUR MIND
BY THE WAY, AKUO...
ARE YOU CONFIDENT YOU STILL LOVE RUMI, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN YEARS?
OF COURSE
THE PASSAGE OF TIME CANNOT DESTROY OUR LOVE.

WE'RE BOUND TOGETHER, AND WE CAN OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE.

WHETHER YOUR BOND IS REAL OR NOT...
IS CLOSELY LINKED TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN EXORCISE THAT CREATURE

LET ME SEE THIS BOND OF YOURS!
Sleep, and leave reality behind for a bit



I WANT TO PROTECT THE BOND I SHARE WITH RUMI!

COME ON OUT, YOU MONSTER! I'VE GOT TO EXORCISE YOU!
I'VE BROUGHT AKUO HERE FROM THE REAL WORLD
Jolt
RUMI, RIGHT...?
HE'S STILL ALIVE
HIS NIGHTMARE IS CURRENTLY FUSED WITH THE REALITY OF THE PAINTING
THE CHARCOAL HAS STARTED TO FADE
IT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY PAINFUL REPRESSING YOUR TEARS THESE PAST FEW MONTHS, RIGHT?

A FEW MONTHS OF YOUR TIME IS MERE MILLI-SECONDS TO ME... BUT IT IS ALSO MY ETERNITY.
TIME CANNOT HIDE MY SORROW HERE...
I'LL BE ABLE TO HIDE MY FEELINGS, AND STAY HERE FOR-EVER.
BUT IF I CAN MEET WITH AKUO JUST ONCE, AND IF HE CAN ACCEPT ME
!
WHAT NON-SENSE ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

GRAB
AND TO COMPLETE THIS PAINTING!
IN ORDER TO PROTECT MY BOND WITH RUMI!
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY BE RUMI? I'M GOING TO DRAG YOU OUT NOW!
yank
yank
STOP, AKUO!
AKUO, STOP!
I TURNED INTO THE DOODLE THAT I MADE BACK THEN...
SHUT UP!
THIS PAINTING WILL NEVER BE PERFECT AS LONG AS YOU EXIST!
!

HAHA... FADE AWAY... FADE AWAY
DRIP
DROP
RUMI
It's all because I couldn't wait for your return.
That things turned out like this

ANSWER ONE LAST QUESTION FOR ME
PLEASE
Would you still have treasured that bond?
IF...
BACK THEN IF YOU'D KNOWN THAT I WAS DYING

IS THIS THE BOND YOU SPOKE OF?
THAT'S RIGHT! THERE'S NO WAY I'D RECOGNISE THAT MONSTER AS RUMI!
SAYING THAT RUMI WAS DYING!
YOU THINK I'D BELIEVE THAT?
THE REAL RUMI IS A TRUE BEAUTY

TURN
ISN'T THAT RIGHT RUMI?
scribble
scribble
I CAN FINALLY MEET YOU AGAIN, RUMI

WHY?
WHY WON'T YOU TALK TO ME?
RUMI?
RUMI!
IT'S HARDLY SURPRISING
SHE'S DIFFERENT FROM THE DOODLE EARLIER SHE DOESN'T HAVE RUMI'S SOUL...
RUMI
HOW CAN THIS BE...?
YOU CHOSE NOT TO BELIEVE HER

THAT'S HOW I'VE ALWAYS BEEN!
I WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN COMPLETING THE PAINTING, AND NEVER PAID ATTENTION TO THE REAL YOU OR ANYTHING ELSE...
GASP
I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY...
WIDE
I'M SORRY, RUMI
DID THAT TO YOU
AHHH!
WHAT HAVE I DONE...?!

RUMI
THEY DIDN'T FADE AWAY?
HER EYES?
THESE ARE THE ONLY THINGS THAT RUMI LEFT BEHIND
stick
RUMI
scribble
PLEASE...
COME BACK TO ME!
scribble
scribble
RUMI...
scribble

Akuo...
AKUO
I'M SORRY, RUM...!
I WON'T EVER LEAVE YOU BEHIND AGAIN

I'll always treasure my bond with you, now and forever.
It's time to wake up
Aaru

click
NO
THE PAINTING IS PERFECT
THE PAINTING ISN'T COMPLETE YET.

THERE'S NO TIME IN THE PAINTING...
SO I'M GOING TO KEEP DRAWING TO ADD TIME INTO IT...
I'VE GOT TO KEEP DRAWING THE FUTURE THAT WE COULDN'T HAVE HAD BECAUSE OF HER ILLNESS, AND KEEP DRAWING IT UNTIL THE DAY WHEN I BREATHE MY LAST...
THIS RELATIONSHIP IS THEIR BOND...

PERHAPS, AFTER SEVERAL DECADES, AS THE PAINTING EVOLVES .
WE'LL SEE AN OLD COUPLE SURROUNDED BY THEIR CHILDREN AND GRAND-CHILDREN .

Volume 2 Chapter 12
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Twelfth Night

Baku

SPACE FOR RENT
Ginsekkan
click
click
It's a place frequented by those seeking release.
In a certain corner of the capital resides the teahouse "Ginsekkan".
click
We spent too much money on the earth-quake repairs.
THE SHOP STILL ISN'T MAKING ENOUGH MONEY
sigh
HAHAHA~ IT'S SO DARK! IT SURE LIVES UP TO ITS SINISTER REPUTATION!
click

Hey~ Where's that Hiruko fellow?
IF YOU'RE HERE ABOUT A NIGHT-MARE, PLEASE COME IN THE EVENING
click
NO, NO, I'M NOT HERE FOR THAT
I'M JUST CURIOUS ABOUT THE SHOP WITH THE "BAKU",
SO IN MY BOREDOM, I THOUGHT I'D COME SEE FOR MYSELF
Not even a customer

ARE YOU HIRUKO?
NO, HE'S UP THERE
UP THERE? OH, YEAH, THERE'S A NOTICE ABOUT SPACE FOR RENT OUTSIDE — SO THERE'RE ROOMS UP THERE?
Ahh!
hop
Oh my
A BLACK CAT?
YOU SCARED ME...
dr
rip
Love at first sight
STAB

Ple-
Please let me rent a room here!
MEOW

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
S-she's my type!

TAP
TAP
MISUMI HIFUMI!
NICE TO MEET YOU, MISS MISUMI HIFUMI.

MEOW
AH!? NO I'M HIFUMI. THAT'S MY CAT, NIGHT-MARE!
AND...

DON'T WORRY,
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DECIDE SO QUICKLY?
DON'T YOU HAVE TO CHECK WITH YOUR FAMILY FIRST...?
MY FATHER'S IN THE TEXTILE BUSINESS, AND HE EARNED A FORTUNE OVERNIGHT FROM THE WAR. ALL THAT'S LEFT FOR ME TO DO IS SPEND MONEY AND WASTE MY TIME AWAY.
I GUESS I QUALIFY AS ONE OF THOSE LAZY RICH BOYS, THANKS TO HIM.
MADE A FORTUNE ?
JUST LIKE THAT MAN—

I'M ASAHINA MIZUKI THE OWNER OF GINSEIKAN
I'LL ALSO BE YOUR LANDLORD STARTING TODAY
SO YOU'RE RUNNING IT ON YOUR OWN? YOU'RE VERY CAPABLE
HEHE I WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE A LANDLORD IF I WAS REALLY CAPABLE...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, BUT THERE'S NOT A SINGLE CUSTOMER DOWNSTAIRS...
FIVE YEARS AGO THIS PLACE DEVELOPED A REPUTATION AS THE PLACE TO GET ADVICE ON BAD DREAMS
HMM, SO THAT BAKU'S BEEN AROUND FOR FIVE YEARS?
EH?
WELL, THEN I GUESS IT'S THANKS TO HIM THAT I GET TO LIVE WITH YOU! ♡

AND HIRUKO'S USING THAT ONE.
HERE WE ARE.
THERE ARE FOUR ROOMS HERE. TWO OF THEM ARE MINE...

LET ME TRY!
HE'S AFRAID OF THE GUN, SO HE ALWAYS HIDES IN HIS ROOM.
IT'S POINTLESS.

Si
lence

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
HIRUKO~ COME ON OUT~

If he's not around, then won't Ginseikan be a cozy love nest for her and I?
No— wait.
Dammit! I can't believe it!

Ah!
HEEY, HIRU-

TH- THAT'S RIGHT — THIS HIRUKO GUY'S LIVING WITH MIZUKI AL-READY

HOW AMBITIOUS — TRYING TO GET A COMPLETE STRANGER TO COME OUT EVEN THOUGH HE'S NEW HERE
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
HEY HIRUKO! COME OUT! GET OUT HERE, DAMN YOU!!

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU HE'S MISUMI HIFUMI, AND HE'LL BE STAYING HERE FROM NOW ON
WHERE IS HE?
here

WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE FOR ?
BANG

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
JUST WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MIZUKI?
H-HEY!
YOU'RE HIRUKO?
WHAT THE... HE'S JUST A KID
HUH?
YOU'RE NOT LOVERS, ARE YOU!? HEY! ANSWER ME!
rrrrr
rrrrr
chuckle

Absolutely not.

LATER...
OH... I SEE~ HE'S NOT YOUR TYPE, RIGHT?
That mindset

LIKE SHE SAID.

Huh? When did she get in here?
But that guy might have his eye on you...
You want to go in too...?
TAP TAP
YOU CAN'T SIT ON THAT
HEHE
HEHE
MEOW

THIS IS THE KEY TO YOUR ROOM
CLACK
THERE'S ONE MORE ROOM. ISN'T THERE ANYONE STAYING IN THERE?
AND THAT ROOM?
EH?
AND IT'S LOCKED, TOO. IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING'S SEALED UP IN THERE
THAT USED TO BE MY BROTHER'S ROOM.
YOUR BROTHER!?

EH? WHY?
HE LEFT YOU ALL ALONE!?
BUT HE DISAP-PEARED MYSTERI-OUSLY TWO YEARS AGO.

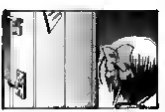
I—
...

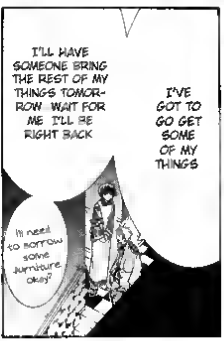
I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT THE SHOP. IT WAS A GIFT. AFTER ALL
I'LL STAY WITH YOU FROM NOW ON!
HUH!? WHAAAT!?
AND I'LL HELP YOU FIX UP THE SHOP—

YES
HE IS—
MY ONLY FAMILY.

I JUST WANT TO KEEP IT AS IT IS WAS TWO YEARS AGO...
BECAUSE MY BROTHER USED TO LIVE HERE
BUT... I JUST CAN'T LEAVE IT
TEA ROOM
THIS PLACE HOLDS MEMORIES OF MY BROTHER AND I

HE SEEMS NICE
Back in Tokyo




I'LL HAVE SOMEONE BRING THE REST OF MY THINGS TOMORROW. WAIT FOR ME. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
I'VE GOT TO GO GET SOME OF MY THINGS
It need to borrow some furniture, okay?

My brother, Azusa.
HEY...
EVEN NOW, I'M CALLING YOU...
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING'S SEALED UP IN THERE
THIS ...
THAT'S RIGHT ...
THIS LOCKED DOOR CAN'T SEAL MY MEMORIES AWAY
IT CAN'T SEAL AWAY THE MEMORY OF THAT DAY—

Five years earlier

AZUSA, YOU LOOK AWFUL!

HAVE I EVER LOOKED GOOD...?

MIZUKI... THAT DREAM'S BEEN PLAGUING ME FOR A WHILE NOW...
CHEER UP, AZUSA.
FROM TODAY ON, WE'RE GOING TO BE LIVING HERE, YOU KNOW?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A WESTERN SHOP!
I BET THAT RICH BASTARD BUILT THIS SHOP FOR THE FUN OF IT
WHAT A HASSLE GIVING US THIS HUGE SHOP JUST TO GET RID OF US
GET RID OF US?
DON'T YOU GET IT?
NOW THAT MOM'S DEAD HE DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH US
THIS IS HIS INDIRECT WAY OF SAYING WE'RE NO LONGER HIS CHILDREN

I... CAN'T FORGIVE HIM FOR WHAT HE'S DONE...
AND I CAN'T FORGIVE MOM, FOR BEING HIS MISTRESS...
I CAN'T FORGIVE OUR FATHER FOR HAVING CHILDREN WITH OTHER WOMEN WHILE HE WAS MARRIED...
AND LEAVING US LIKE THIS NOW

IS BEING TREATED LIKE THIS AS A "BASTARD CHILD"...
BUT WHAT I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT FORGIVE...

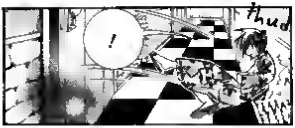
STOP IT, AZUSA!
MOM DIED OF AN ILLNESS! IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!
IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, THAT NEVER WOULD'VE HAPPENED TO MOM..
AND MY OWN ACCURSED EXISTENCE!
If I didn't exist...!!
PLEASE... STOP BLAMING YOURSELF AZUSA
I'LL WORK HARD AT THIS TEA-HOUSE...
AND ONCE I LEARN HOW TO BREW GOOD COFFEE I'LL MAKE SOME FOR YOU EVERY DAY!
SO...
LET'S OPEN THE SHOP TOGETHER!
I KNOW

Cheer up...
HEY, AZUSA...
TELL ME WHAT IT IS YOU SEE IN YOUR NIGHTMARE...
I see myself gradually disappearing...
That's all that happens...

WHY ARE YOU HAVING THAT KIND OF DREAM?
YOU'RE MY ONLY FAMILY, AZUSA...
I WON'T LET YOU VANISH, NOT EVEN IN A DREAM
Grab
I DON'T WANT THAT!
IT MUST BE BECAUSE...
I'VE ALWAYS WISHED, DEEP DOWN, THAT I COULD RENOUNCE MY EXISTENCE AS "THAT KIND OF PERSON" AND BE REBORN.
I DON'T... CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ANY-MORE...

SINCE THEN HE'S BEEN LOCKED IN HIS ROOM FOR TWO WHOLE DAYS
WHY IS HE TORTURING HIMSELF LIKE THIS ?

WHAT
WHAT'S THAT?
click


!
thud

IS THAT?
WHAT...

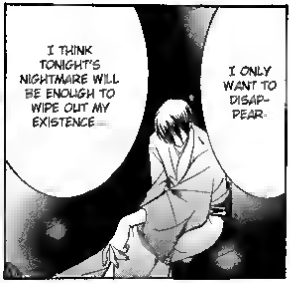
My body's .. gradually fading away...

They call me Hiroko
A Baku that eats nightmares
Ill help you leave your nightmare behind.
As long as you are willing to give up your identity I can take away all the pain of your existence
You will be reborn as a Baku.

I'm a being that neither loves nor dies
without a place of birth and without a place of demise
This meaningless existence of mine seems to resonate with your nightmare of fading away

...

I DON'T WANT RELEASE...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?


I THINK TONIGHT'S NIGHTMARE WILL BE ENOUGH TO WIPE OUT MY EXISTENCE...
I ONLY WANT TO DISAPPEAR.

!
That is why I have chosen you.

I will retain some abilities and memories
I cannot erase my existence
But I can rid myself of my consciousness
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CAN'T BRAIN-WASH ME, BUT ONLY LET ME TAKE ON THE IDENTITY OF THE BAKU?
LOOKING FOR SOMEPLACE TO DIE...?
SO YOU'RE

That's right But a Baka will have the thoughts of a Baka
Even if that destroys your life,
Yes, who are so ready to give up on life, have no reason to refuse, do you?
THEN — I TAKE IT YOU ALREADY KNOW—
WHAT MY ANSWER WILL BE, DON'T YOU?
I don't care about anything anymore

The next time you wake, you'll be Hisuke, the Baku
SM
irk
This is your last night as a human
NO
IT'S THE LAST FOR BOTH OF US

Now sleep,
and leave reality
behind for a
while

And he's
disap-
pearing.

And he's
disarm-
ing.

These are.
The Baku's "memories"?

COULDN'T SLEEP LAST NIGHT
AZUSA
LAST NIGHT WAS JUST A NIGHT-MARE, WASN'T IT?
rattle
rattle
HERE
LI... LIMAA

YOU'RE STILL AZUSA, AREN'T YOU...?
THANK GOD...
Nice
Nice
HERE
THERE WERE COFFEE BEANS DOWN-STAIRS SO I MADE SOME COFFEE...
But I wasn't sure how to make it
Sob
AH! AZUSA!?
I'M SO SORRY, IS IT AWFUL!?
BLOOD?!
Cough

—The next time you wake, you'll be Haruka, the Baku—
AS IF IT'S REJECTING HUMAN FOOD
MY BODY FEELS STRANGE
A... ARE YOU OKAY? OR COULD YOU BE... CHANGING!?
I SEE
It's just that the part of me that was human has disappeared..
IT'S OKAY I'M NOT CHANGING
HEY... IS ANYONE HERE?

YOU'RE DRESSED PRETTY WEIRD. THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR MIND, TOO, ISN'T THERE?
UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S JUST A TOURIST ATTRACTION RIGHT NOW
I REALLY LIKE GINSEIKAN'S COFFEE ...
IF YOU'RE REALLY A BAKU
THEN EAT THIS NIGHTMARE ...
THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME.

Three years later
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN MONEY OR MATERIAL GOODS
THAT'S TRUE. YOU NEVER SEEM TO WANT ANYTHING
HIRUKO.
BUT PEOPLE WHO WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR THANKS STILL SEND YOU GIFTS...
How long has it been.
Since I started calling him that as if it were natural...
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED TO HELP THEM

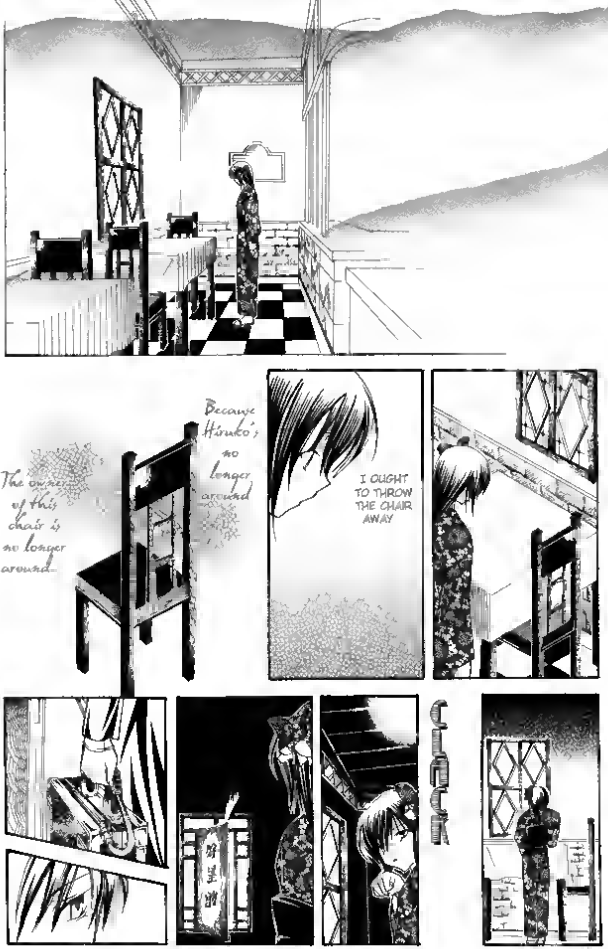
BUT... YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DRINK IT, WILL YOU?
I'VE FINALLY LEARNED HOW TO MAKE GOOD COFFEE...
BUT IT'S STILL A FITY...
BUT GINSEIKAN HAS ALREADY DEVELOPED A REPUTATION AS THE PLACE YOU GO TO GET RID OF BAD DREAMS...
I'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS I HAVE DREAMS TO EAT
The "Azusa" within me is slowly fading away...
ARE THE DREAMS OF TORMENTED PEOPLE REALLY THAT DELICIOUS?
THAT'S WHAT GINSEIKAN'S KNOWN FOR, NOW.

I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT BY THE "THOUGHTS" OF A BAKU?
THERE'S NOTHING MORE SATISFYING...
MY MIND IS ALREADY FILLED WITH ALL KINDS OF NIGHTMARES, BUT I CRAVE EVEN MORE...
YOU NEED EVEN WORSE NIGHTMARES?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GO, HIRUKO?
WILL YOU KEEP DYING AND BEING REBORN?
IT SOUNDS LIKE AN ADDICTION
LATELY ORDINARY DREAMS NO LONGER SATISFY ME

This kind of never-ending emptiness—
NOW I CAN FINALLY UNDERSTAND HOW HE FELT
A "BAKU" NEITHER LIVES NOR DIES —
NEITHER DREAMS NOR I...
HAVE ANY KIND OF END.
THERE'S NO END IN SIGHT
HAHA —!

YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING TERRIBLE LATELY, HIRUKO
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE HAVEN'T BEEN MANY NIGHT-MARES TO EAT RECENTLY
glow
THAT'S NOT IT
I SEEK A DIFFERENT ENDING THAN HIS
MY FINAL DESTINATION IS...
THAT'S "MOUKYOUDOU".
THAT'S THE GUY'S MEMORIES.
FIVE YEARS AGO... HMM? THE IDEAL NIGHTMARE TO EAT, BUT THE PERSON GOT AWAY FROM HIM...
THERE'S...
THAT CHILD.

That kid was me...!
HEHE
HOW FUNNY...
HEHE
PLEASE, PLEASE HIRUKO...!
SSSH
PLEASE... DON'T GO ANYWHERE ...
I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN!
SWISH
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
IT'S GONE
GASP
He already gone
I knew from the beginning that there'd be no turning back.
Just what is a "baku"...?
HEHE
HEHE


The owner of this chair is no longer around...
Because Hisuko's no longer around
I OUGHT TO THROW THE CHAIR AWAY
CLICK

ARE YOU
MIZUKI?
WELCOME HOME!

Hahaha?! "Welcome home!" you say?
OH... IT'S ALREADY DARK...
I'LL GO MAKE DINNER
THAT'S LIKE THE WELCOME A WIFE WOULD GIVE!
gulp
HEY, MIZUKI...

I'll definitely find your brother!
SINCE HE'S GOING TO BE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW!
eh?
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT
BUT...
hehe
THANKS
!!?
Brother-in-law?

BECAUSE MY BROTHER IS...
HIRUKO, WHO'S SITTING THERE RIGHT NOW

Volume 2 Chapter 13
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Thirteenth Night Kagome

I'M SORRY, MIZUKI...

I'M BACK

In a certain corner of the capital lie the tea house "Kainoshi-tsuji". It's a place frequented by those seeking salvation.

I LOOKED FOR YOUR BROTHER EVERYWHERE, BUT I JUST COULDN'T FIND HIM...

YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO, HIFUMI

HEH, HEH... IT'D JUST BE A WASTE OF TIME ANYWAY

Just looking around without even a clue

EXCUSE ME IS HIRUKO THE BAKU AROUND?

CLACK

SHUT UP! WAIT UNTIL...

!

WHAT? HEY YOU! HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE A MISSING FAMILY MEMBER? DO YOU UNDERSTAND HER PAIN?!

STOMP

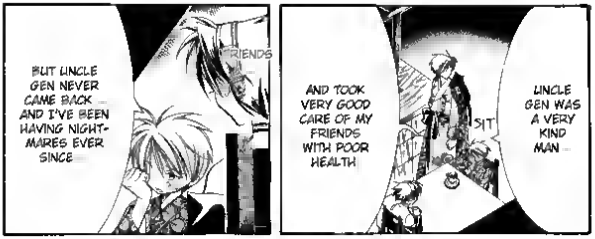
Hifumi!?
FREEZE
I'M HIFUMI
I'M...
H-HEY, BRAT WHO ARE YOU? I'M HIFUMI!
WHAT THE... I'M HIFUMI!
stomp
stomp
SHUT UP! I DON'T HAVE SIBLINGS OR A TWIN! STOP COPYING ME!
HOW WOULD I KNOW WHY WE HAVE THE SAME NAME?
BUT THEY REALLY DO RESEMBLE ONE ANOTHER

His job was to clean the house and the garden, and he took care of me in place of my father who was always busy with work. But—
Uncle Gen, I'm going to cut it, okay?

HIS NAME WAS GENZOU, AND HE WORKED FOR MY FAMILY WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. HE USED TO STAY AT THE WAREHOUSE IN THE GARDEN.

—I WANT TO KNOW WHERE HE IS TOO—
He used to play Kagome* with us in front of the warehouse
He loved to drink but was very amiable. That's why a lot of children liked him
A few years ago he disappeared—

*Kagome is a Japanese children's game


BUT UNCLE GEN NEVER CAME BACK... AND I'VE BEEN HAVING NIGHTMARES EVER SINCE...
FRIENDS
AND TOOK VERY GOOD CARE OF MY FRIENDS WITH POOR HEALTH.
SIT
UNCLE GEN WAS A VERY KIND MAN...

The monster guessed the name of Uncle Gen, who was standing behind him—normally, this would mean that Uncle Gen would become the next demon but...
Who stands behind you, now?
GENZOU
The enemy and the battle stopped and fell
But one day, the person who was supposed to play the demon suddenly became a monster...
In the evening of the dream
Fugeen, Fugeen, the lizard in the angle, where will you come out?
In the dream I'd be playing happily with everyone

UNCLE GEN
That monster ate Uncle Gen!

Afterwards that monster kept appearing in my dreams eating my friends one at a time...
We were very scared, so we did as he said
Plunk
Plunk
LET'S PLAY SOME MORE.
Plunk
Please get rid of him! Don't let him take anymore of my friends! Please, Hiroko!
BANG
Don't use my face to beg Hiroko —!
AND... AND FOR SOME REASON MY FRIENDS HAVE REALLY GONE MISSING IN REAL LIFE!
SO...
ONLY A FEW OF THEM ARE LEFT...
CLENCH

THIS SEEMS ODDLY FAMILIAR...
ARE THOSE SCARS?
WHAT ARE THOSE?
I'M REALLY SCARED IF I GET EATEN IN MY DREAMS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IN REALITY?
IF THIS GOES ON, I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP
I only want to play with everyone else...!
I USED TO HAVE THOSE TOO YOU WANT TO KEEP THOSE SCARS AS A MEMENTO DON'T YOU?
SEE

Whisper
THROW T...
GENZOU...
SAW OFF...
Whisper

Rewind
HEY, HIFUMI... COME HERE FOR A MOMENT
?

DON'T BOSS ME AROUND!
JUST DO WHAT I TOLD YOU
I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
EH?

CAN I REALLY FIND UNCLE GEN LIKE THAT?
BUT—

?
I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT, MIZUKI!
FINE, I'LL DO IT

END

HM?
OH! BY THE WAY, HIRUKO!
Okay!
OKAY, LET'S GET GOING TOO

WILL THE FRIENDS WHO HAD DISAPPEARED REAPPEAR AGAIN?
WILL THINGS CHANGE IF I WAKE UP FROM THE NIGHTMARE?

I'd like to see Uncle Gen again!

SO... YOU HAVE TO GET RID OF THAT DEMON, OKAY?

AWW
SHH

Sleep now,
and leave reality
behind for a
while

Kagome, Kagome, like bird in the cage,
when will you come out?
In the evening of the dawn,
the crane and turtle slipped and fell.

HEIA...
Who stands behind you now?

HEITA'S GOING TO GET EATEN!
plunk
HIRUKO WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
!
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS NIGHTMARE TONIGHT
HOW COULD YOU, HIRUKO?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAVE HIM?!
I TRUSTED YOU!
Wh stands right behind you now?
EH...
LET'S CONTINUE...
plunk
WHY? WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO WASN'T EATEN?!
!?
THAT WAS THE LAST PERSON...
I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT
!
EVERYONE HAS BEEN EATEN...
HOW COULD YOU...

SKREECH
IT HURTS! IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S CUTTING ME!
SKREECH
IT HURTS!
SKREECH
SKREECH...
SKREECH
WHAT'S THAT SOUND!?
SKREECH
IT HURTS!
FLINCH
SKREECH
UNCLE GEN... I STILL WANT TO PLAY WITH YOU...
DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND...
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING...? I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS ANYMORE...
SKREECH
SKREECH
AND HE ALSO TOOK CARE OF MY SICKLY FRIENDS
HE WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THE NAME "HIFUMI"
YOU REALLY LIKE HIM
YEAH...
SCREECH

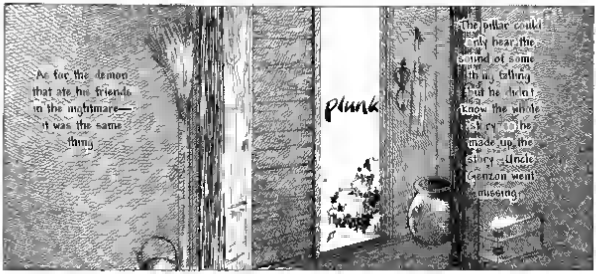
That's why we hoped that we would be able to play with them in our dreams...
But in reality, we couldn't go out to play at all.
That's why we always envied the children that could play with Uncle Gen
SURELY NOT..!
BAM
!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S JUST A DREAM...
I DON'T WANT TO! I'M SCARED!
I can't move anywhere...
That sound has stopped, as well. But—
It's finally stopped.
EH?
LET'S GO AND MEET EVERYONE
PLUNK

Wa!
plunk
EVERY-ONE!

I'm glad you're okay!
Uncle Gen...
It's time to wake up.

These were the words Shinobu-san was talking about, weren't they?
plunk
Hufum
Uncle Gen...
No one will be able to find you if you stay in here...
Hey Hiruko Where Are You?

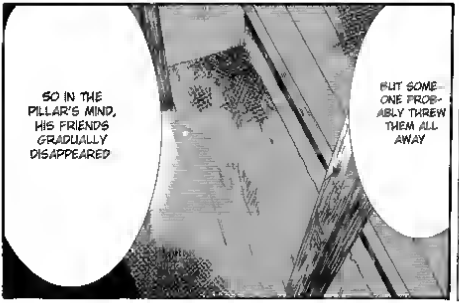
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY WELL!?
DO ME A FAVOR AND FISH OUT EVERYTHING IN THERE
Clack
HEY —!
"IF YOU WANT TO FIND GENZOU, GO HOME AND SAW OFF THE PILLAR TO YOUR WAREHOUSE AND THROW IT INTO THE WELL. IT'S THE ONE WITH THE HORIZONTAL LINES. I'LL BE THERE IN A BIT."
Why do I have to do this?
ANYWAY, YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN WHAT YOU SAID IN THE GINSEIKAN RIGHT NOW!
A few years ago, Genzou got drunk and fell into the well by accident.
He was covered by the well water and never discovered, so everyone thought he'd disappeared.
THE DEMON IN THE DREAM IS THIS WELL
THAT LITTLE KID'S REAL IDENTITY IS THE PILLAR I ASKED YOU TO CUT DOWN


As for the demon that ate his friends in the nightmare— it was the same thing
plunk
The pillar could only hear the sound of some thing falling but he didn't know the whole story. He made up the story. Uncle Genzou went mussing

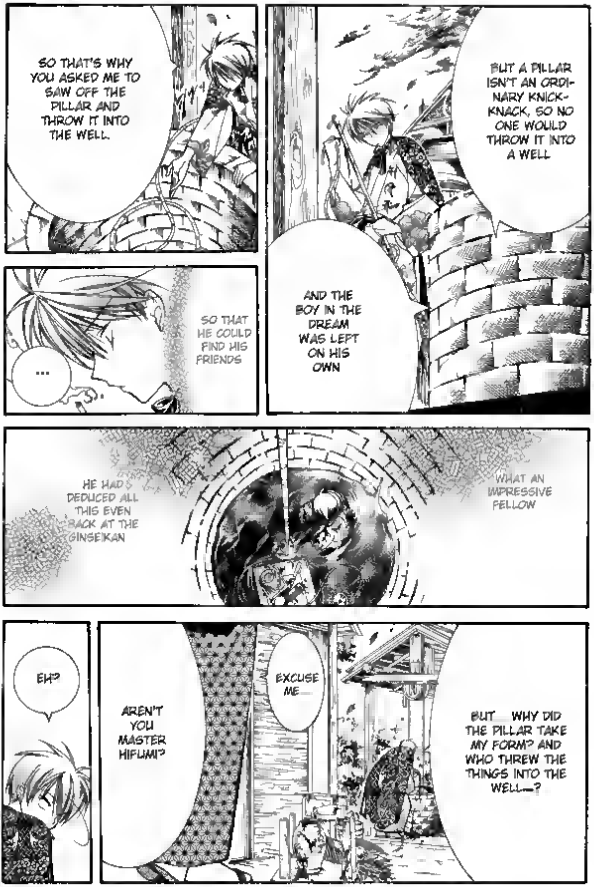
SEE THIS JUNK WAS ALREADY BROKEN BUT UNCLE GENZOU REPAIRED THEM AND PUT THEM IN THE WAREHOUSE

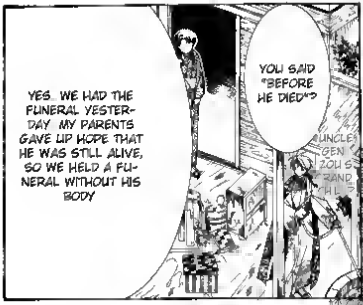
THAT'S RIGHT HE WAS REFERRING TO THIS JUNK

THE "FRIENDS" HE WAS TALKING ABOUT


SO IN THE PILLAR'S MIND, HIS FRIENDS GRADUALLY DISAPPEARED
BUT SOMEONE PROBABLY THREW THEM ALL AWAY

"HE ALSO TOOK VERY GOOD CARE OF MY SICKLY FRIENDS"


SO THAT'S WHY YOU ASKED ME TO SAW OFF THE PILLAR AND THROW IT INTO THE WELL.
BUT A PILLAR ISN'T AN ORDINARY KNICK-KNACK, SO NO ONE WOULD THROW IT INTO A WELL
...
SO THAT HE COULD FIND HIS FRIENDS
AND THE BOY IN THE DREAM WAS LEFT ON HIS OWN
HE HAD'S DEDUCED ALL THIS EVEN BACK AT THE SINSEIKAN
WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE FELLOW
EH?
AREN'T YOU MASTER HIFUMI?
EXCUSE ME...
BUT... WHY DID THE PILLAR TAKE MY FORM? AND WHO THREW THE THINGS INTO THE WELL...?


YES. WE HAD THE FUNERAL YESTERDAY. MY PARENTS GAVE UP HOPE THAT HE WAS STILL ALIVE, SO WE HELD A FUNERAL WITHOUT HIS BODY
YOU SAID "BEFORE HE DIED"?
UNCLE GEN ZOU'S GRAND FIL
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF MY GRANDFATHER BEFORE HE DIED

YOUR FAMILY SAID THAT THE WELL WAS NO LONGER IN USE, AND WAS PLANNING TO SEAL IT UP. SO I THREW ALL THE JUNK INTO IT. I ONLY FINISHED CLEARING IT OUT YESTERDAY
I'VE BEEN HERE SEVERAL TIMES TO CLEAN UP MY GRANDFATHER'S BELONGINGS

KYA ---!
IT'S GENZOU
THUMP
AHA!
PULL

HAVE I CAUSED YOU TROUBLE?
THIS IS THE LAST ONE HIFUMI

TO THINK I ACTUALLY DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT GOD WILL PUNISH ME !

SINCE IT'S TURNED OUT LIKE THIS...
WE'LL BRING GRANDFATHER'S BODY BACK FOR A CREMATION...

CAN I ASK A FAVOR OF YOU?
SURE

Please burn these things with Grandpa...

THOSE LINES ON THE KID'S CHEST WERE THE LINES THAT UNCLE GEN DREW TO MARK MY HEIGHT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER!
I GET IT!
Sn a p
BUT I HAD NO SIBLINGS...SO ONLY MY HEIGHT WAS RECORDED ON THAT PILLAR —
THAT BEGAN TO THINK THAT IT WAS "HIFUMI!"
AND THEN IT GAVE FORM TO ITS FRIENDS WITHIN ITS DREAMS
SO IN ITS FANTASIES, IT APPEARED AS HIFUMI, WATCHING GENZOU PLAYING WITH THE CHILDREN

TO THE PILLAR
UNCLE GEN WAS JUST LIKE FAMILY, WASN'T HE?
AND THIS WAS THE RESULT OF HIS LONG-ING...
BUT AFTER GENZOU DISAPPEARED, THE DREAMS BECAME NIGHT-MARES
IT'S THANKS TO IT THAT I GOT TO SEE UNCLE GEN AGAIN
IT'S... RUN FOR UNCLE GEN FAR EXCEPT FOR ONE...
What's that supposed to mean?!
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL... IT'D TASTE OF HIFUMI, SO I CAN'T EAT IT
DON'T YOU WANT TO EAT THE NIGHT-MARE ?
Oh right he's been in the chilly well water this whole time
COULD IT BE RELATED TO THE PEARL ?
BUT SUCH THINGS MAY BE ALWAYS TAKEN PLACE IN GINSEIKAN
HIRUKO ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
At any rate I should go home now.

Kagome, kagome...
The bird in the cage...
COME ON, LET'S MEASURE OUR HEIGHTS!
BY THE WAY DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU USED TO HAVE THOSE SCARS? IN OTHER WORDS, SOMEONE WOULD MARK YOUR HEIGHT FOR YOU!
Hey there's a pretty good pillar over there!
THIS IS WONDERFUL HIRUKO'S FOUND A FRIEND!
Your nose hair is showing.
I'LL FORCE YOU TO ADMIT DEFEAT!
You shorty! Shorty!
Eh!?
I WONDER IF THAT KID IS IN HEAVEN WITH UNCLE GEN AND HIS FRIENDS?

postscript

The 13 ½ Night
The Fortune Cat
A long time ago Mizuki went to the river to do the laundry, and Hifumi went to the mountains to gather firewood.
So only Hiruko was left to look after the shop
THE SUN IS REALLY BRIGHT TODAY...
sigh
IT'S MAKING ME DIZZY...
HMM... MAYBE I SHOULD GO BACK TO MY ROOM...
SINCE THERE'S ONLY CUSTOMERS AT NIGHT
CLICK
Hello~

DROP
That thing appeared in a frame in chapter ten...
KAIRI TOLD ME TO BRING THIS OVER!
I'm Shima, from the Moukyoudou!
HEY... HEY!
WELL THEN, I'LL BE OFF!
I'm home!
OH...
At that moment Hiruko had many questions that he wanted to ask, but none of them were very important by then
IT CAN'T BE!
I HAVEN'T SEEN KAIRI SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING. I WONDER WHERE HE'S GONE...?

JUST AS I EXPECTED
chuckle
It's been a while, Hiruko.
chuckle
chuckle
chuckle
YOU'RE INSIDE, AREN'T YOU?
My...
YOU'RE WEARING A KIMONO TODAY?
I'M SORRY TO SAY, BUT IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU...
EH?
EH?
I KNOW! IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT HAIR BAND HERE, I'LL HELP YOU REMOVE IT!
OH! HEY! HIRUKO YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE QUITE SO ROUGH...
WHY CAN'T YOU TAKE IT OFF?
I don't know! I'm trying!
OKAY, IF THAT'S THE CASE, USE ALL YOUR STRENGTH!
tug
OH!
WHAT'S THAT?!
Has it come off? What's wrong?
!!!
BA-BUMP

SNAP!
I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT. DON'T MIND ME hehehe
Hagekui Kenbun*
I THINK I SHOULD CHANGE THE TITLE OF THIS BOOK TO...
BY THE WAY, HIRUKO
STOP COMING UP WITH YOUR OWN FANTASIES!
WHACK!
I'M... I'M NOT BALP!
HE'S NOT IN HERE!
!?
Day-dreaming... Means to think of something out of this world.
WHERE
WHERE IS THE S...
THIS
HOW CAN THAT BE ? HE SHOULD BE INSIDE!
Is it the sun messing with my eyes? Or could it be the entrance to the land of the dead?

End

*weird make with the eyeball says Yumeiku (Enjuu)

The sfx factor for ... is ... ...ation seriously but "the humour doesn't seems pretty good, so I'm leaving it

夢喰い門

ADULTISH! THE HORRIFIC ROMANTIC STORY~

Shin Mashiba's Friends C·白井.com

I wonder if everyone remembers the last lesson? This time I'll teach everyone about "Kayarin" But C 白井 com. has a story that I have to talk about so I'll teach everyone about it next time. Actually, the story hasn't appeared yet so I can't write it right now.

A prettified version*

I'm addicted to ramune!

*type of Japanese soda

TAKEN FROM THE STENCIL MONTHLY MAGAZINE, NOVEMBER ISSUE

Enix is really amusing!

THIS

What do you all think?

Just what was she thinking when she was brewing this?

It's really disgusting!

Hi everyone! At this point some people will feel that this is a little strange and scream "Eh?" Yup, this is (from the last time) a continuation from the "rewarding seeing and hearing" (Hiruko) "Addicted to Ramune" Bakus throw up if they eat anything other than dreams (as seen above) So the instant he drinks the ramune he'll throw up However he still drinks it, even though it makes him throw up more than a hundred times per day It's really quite noisy and irritating. So Please try to think of a way if this keeps on, he'll be the one who's having nightmares!

『TAI!』

LYRICS YUMEKUI KENBUN
MUSIC YUMEKUI KENBUN

I am a Bahn RAINLINE IN
I am a Bahn RAINLINE BAD

I like to drink energy drinks! Under the sun, the days of sunlight between the trees
I like to drink energy drinks! In the large trees little birds chirp

I am a bahn, nightmares IN
I am a Bahn RAINLINE BAD

There's only BAD DREAM that's really sad My FOOD
So I've got to fight
I've got to pull myself together I've got to pull myself together
The revolution of rage!! Call up all the strange things!!
Under the sun (HEY!) Under the sky (Hey!) Under the table (HEY!)
1 2 3 4 3 2 1 ZERO!!

※chorus

Yume Yume Kui Kui Yumekui Yumekui
Yume Yume Kui Kui Yume Yume Kui Yume (chorus)
Kenbun Bububun Bun Bubun
Kenbun Bububun bun babun

Formalin, that guy life SOUL of RAINLINE
I keep growing keep growing
Making an endless karaman DREAM
Someday I'll grow into a FORMALIN SOUL
I think that ought to be a future that's not far away FOREVER LOVE

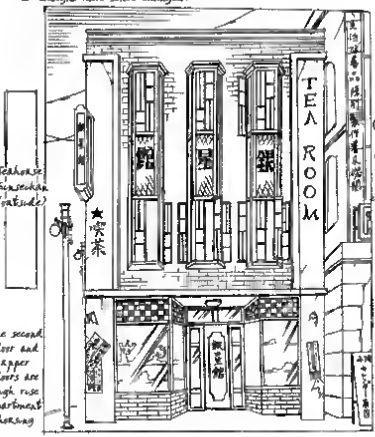
I like to drink energy drinks! Playing a loud drum
I like to drink energy drinks! TITLE in the middle of the month

※ (repeat chorus)

Energy drinks I definitely want to drink Want to drink Want to drink!! (YCARD)
I definitely want to drink energy drinks Want to drink Want to drink!! (YCS_THIS!)

THWACK

Because there are extra pages I'll start by introducing all the characters so far (This was from a year ago...so some of the designs have since changed!)



Teahouse Gunsenhan (outside)

The second floor and upper floors are high rise apartment housing

★ Nuraku
Baku don't just take nightmares as food, they also take enjoying a nightmare as a kind of game

★ past

It's not related to the future story, so please excuse me!

Staff

★ Personality
Bossy arrogant weird dress sense, is always attracting attention

★ Important items
cartoon fall

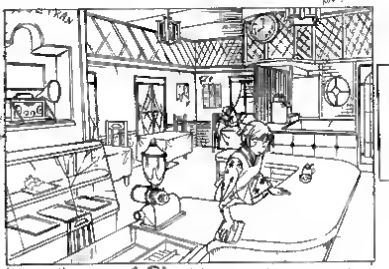
Of course not after because not after

★ Staff
[redacted] Has the ability to put the target to sleep. It can also be used for flying and for self-protection when in danger the orgs tail at the front can be used to collect dreams (crystallize)

That and [redacted] is made

★ Back

Please excuse me!



★ Teahouse Gunsenhan
(place of gathering)
The shop assistants are competitive and have caustic tongues The insides are shabby and very dark So there aren't many customers. Nuraku doesn't eat anything besides dreams, so he just spends his time here. The shop staff is very free, so they'll chat with him but won't disturb him.

Forgot to draw an entrance so I had to make it

Character introduction

This was from a scene a year ago (has since been taken out) I plucked it out from my records

Hiruko

Not much has changed from the original design. One thing that has changed is probably the hair.

The clothing also seems a little like that of a foreigner but it has since deviated from imagination and become a rather strange look!

He probably about 17. He kind of like someone who lives off mushrooms!

Mizuki

She's changed a lot from the beginning. Originally meant to be a cutesy character without a care in the world, she's become more quiet and steady. (I remember the first night I started drawing, I had to change the lines no less than three times.)

Mizuki is a name that was suggested to me by Takeisachi (a friend) It means that the moon is blocked by the moon. It's quite troublesome to write, but I like it. She's quite close in age to Hinako, or perhaps a little younger I think she's the kind of person who eats Tofu and veggies (Hinami only eats meat)

Afterword

Hi everyone. I'm Shin Mashiba. I've finally published the second volume. And to think I thought it'll come to an end after five or six chapters. I'm a little surprised.

My editor has helped me a lot, and I'd like to take this chance to offer my deepest gratitude along with the thanks I have for the readers who have supported my work.

There's been a lot of new characters who have been introduced this time, and the one that I've enjoyed drawing the most is Hifuru. My initially lukewarm response seems to have been swept away entirely by him. But I hope that he won't appear as frequently

To everyone who has helped me.

* Former editor Hirohata Misako-sama and current editor Saeki Aki-sama

* To everyone who has helped me, Shiro Kanyun, Tsketsuchi They're my very helpful and hard-working assistants

* communications MOAI

* SHIX and all associated staff

Thank you all so much!

And thanks go out to the special guest (and the one responsible for cut off hanging) Shiro Kanyun. Thank you for your sincere and precious drafts. Thank you very much.